

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 20, 1994

Published Since 1877

13-year-old Kentucky boy already feels call to missions

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) — Parents often worry that today's kids are growing up too fast. Not Adam Dedman's.

"He's a 13-year-old going on

40," explained Adam's father, David Dedman. "He has said that he'd like to get this childhood out of the way so he could do some things."

Adam isn't straining to break away from his parents but rather to break through to a culture. He believes God is calling him to Japan.

"I'm only 13 years old, but I have seen God work in my life and I feel I could be of service in Japan," Adam said in a letter to the Foreign Mission Board. "I feel that God is calling me to be a missionary to Japan. Japan needs more missionaries. Look at Billy Graham. He's brought millions of people to Christ. I'm not saying that I can bring millions, but even if I just bring one, that's something."

The Lexington, Ky., teenager isn't just dreaming. He has learned Japanese and visited Japan twice. He regularly talks about Jesus with Japanese classmates whose religious backgrounds include Buddhism, Shintoism, and atheism. In his letter to the Foreign Mission Board, he asked for specific information on evangelizing internationals, especially Japanese.

Adam, who became a Christian at age 9, also wrote about seeing a Lottie Moon missions poster at his church, Calvary Baptist in Lexington. It said "Change the World Now!"

Despite his youth, Adam took "now" very literally.

"A lot of teenagers think they can't do anything now. They have to wait until they get older," he said in a phone interview. "But I don't want to just hear about God's work, I want to do it. I want to go out and actually help spread God's kingdom."

Adam's exposure to Japanese culture began in 1987 when Toyota opened an auto assembly plant in Georgetown, Ky., near Lexington. Today about 800 Japanese people live in the area because of the plant.

Adam was in second grade in school when the plant opened. He

didn't pay much attention to the economic fanfare over the plant opening. But he did notice a slightly dazed Japanese child who was ushered into his classroom one day. The new student, Tonohiro Nakazawa, could only smile. He didn't know English.

"When he came into our class, I realized that not everyone spoke English," Adam recalled. "I thought that was neat. I went up to him and made friends with him and we've been friends ever since. Later, after Tonohiro learned English, I began to think that since he had made the effort to speak English, I should make an effort to speak Japanese."

Adam began learning Japanese from a neighborhood friend who is Japanese. Soon he was playing with Tonohiro's Japanese friends, who taught him more and more of the language. Today he can keep up with any conversation.

Some of those conversations turned toward God.

"My Japanese friends are just like anybody," Adam explained. "They have questions about who they are and what they believe in. And I've found that a lot of my Japanese friends don't believe in anything. So I just talk to them and witness to them because the good news is too good not to share with others."

Adam will get another chance to take his Christian witness to Japan when he visits friends this summer in Toyota City.

Besides seeing his friends, what's Adam excited about?

"I'm going to be staying with friends that live just one block from Southern Baptist missionaries (Mark and Wendy Hoshizaki) in Toyota City. Isn't that neat?"



YOUNGEST MISSIONARY? — Adam Dedman (center), from Lexington, Ky., greets friends Takashi Iyoda (left) and Hitoshi Shimizu at Nagoya International Airport during his trip to Japan last summer. Adam, 13, recently wrote the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expressing interest in becoming a missionary to Japan. He isn't just dreaming; the teenager has already acted on his long-range plan. In the past few years Adam has learned Japanese, visited Japan twice, and shared Christ with Japanese classmates whose religious backgrounds include Buddhism, Shintoism, and atheism. "I don't want to just hear about God's work, I want to do it. I want to go out and actually spread God's kingdom," Adam said. (BP photo)

AFA investigates scam

The Florida benefactor who offered American Family Association (AFA) a \$500,000 matching grant cannot be located and was apparently conducting a hoax, according to officials at the Tupelo-based ministry. AFA founder Don Wildmon reported that the ministry was approached last summer by a person identifying himself as Paul Andresen of EBN Corp. in Miami, who said he had located an anonymous donor who would be willing to match up to \$500,000 in gifts to AFA. Wildmon made several efforts to confirm the offer, including a conversation with the Miami accountant designated to handle the transaction, but discovered that Andresen's telephone was disconnected shortly before the deadline to meet the grant criteria. Wildmon said the scam has been reported to the FBI and U.S. Postal Service authorities.

Sistine project complete

Restoration of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel masterpieces is virtually complete, bringing 14 years of painstaking work to a close for the four artisans involved in the delicate, inch-by-inch removal of 500 years of dust, grease, smoke, and additions made for the sake of modesty. The frescoes, which Michelangelo painted on moist lime plaster with water-based pigments, depict nine scenes from Genesis, seven Hebrew prophets, and five female prophets from ancient mythology. He spent six years (1497-1503) lying on his back 70 feet above the chapel floor in order to paint the ceiling, and returned years later to paint *The Last Judgment* above the altar of the chapel. The final phase of the project will be to remove the 38 drapes, loincloths, and undergarments that were added after Michelangelo's death to conceal the nude figures he originally painted.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Grady Cothen, third Mississippian to serve as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, says his Feb. 1 retirement will give him more time to fish in his beloved creeks of south Mississippi.

20 years ago

Cooperative Program receipts of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board exceed the \$5.2 million goal, reflecting a 13.5% increase over previous year giving by churches in the state.

50 years ago

The Baptist Record reminds readers of its long-standing policy of limiting obituaries and obituary resolutions to a maximum of 200 words. "Over 200 words are one cent each," the policy states.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Where are we hurting most?

There is little doubt we are hurting. The Southern Baptist Convention, battered, rent, and bruised, is still pressing on. We sailed through bloody seas and we still sail in harm's way. Our institutions are hurting with crimped budgets and increased enrollment. Missions, foreign and home, suffer budget cuts; field programs are in need. While all of these hurt, the greater long-range damage may be at the local church.

Joe Churchmember may be confused and perplexed over change in general plus the strange events taking place in his denomination. Each attack by one group on another pulls a thread from the fabric. Damage control works hard at the national and state levels, which have the media, but seldom reaches to the local church.

Churches could be hemorrhaging as we play out the denominational controversy. Joe C. doesn't understand the controversy and really doesn't care to understand it. All he knows is that preachers are squabbling, monumental egos are in conflict, and the fallout is beginning to affect his church.

Guest opinion...

Helping children to know home is "sweet," even when it isn't

(ZPS) — Home is safe. Most of us have a special feeling about it. When we're sad, terrified, hurt, or sick, we want to be home. Sometimes, though, home is awful. Divorce often makes it a place to stay away from. It reminds us of the pain. Even though bad things have happened, home can still be good. It takes time and effort, but we can bring it about. Here are some ideas to make home better.

The pleasure of a note

Everyone loves receiving notes. Even preschoolers love to get notes. Teens, too, value notes. They get in trouble for passing notes in class.

Even though your home might not be so good, I encourage you to get into the habit of writing notes to other family members.

Note writing is a pleasurable experience that will affect your home life positively. Remember, the feelings connected with notes never go away.

The warmth of touch

An experiment to prove that touch makes a difference in our

Joe C. loves his church and genuinely hopes his church is doing what is best. He was baptized there, married there, and has long been thrilled with what his church does at home and abroad. Still he reads and hears about the conflict.

He thinks: Why do they have to print all that stuff anyhow? You'd think people who love each other could do better. Just look at that... one state convention saying you have to support SBC missions and must not support CBF missions. Another state trying to make rules and regulations on what we can give our money to, or who can be part of the group. Slates of officers are proposed and promoted like the Democratic or Republican conventions. Funds are withheld, re-directed, or divided by neo-political means in opposition to other groups.

Somehow..., Joe C. muses, it turns me off. If they cannot put their house in order, how can they expect my church to continue its support? The fighting seems to be going on somewhere else, but we are the ones who

pay and who bleed.

"Honey, how much did we give to our church last year?"

"Well, we gave a tithe plus the mission offerings, and some to the building fund. Why? Why did you ask?"

"Oh, I don't know. I was just thinking."

Could it be here where the real damage is taking place? Disillusioned, weary of the hassle, weakened faith in our leadership; how long will it continue? There is no victory in being the last warrior on a destructive battlefield. What we need is a caring, loving church involved in evangelism, teaching the biblical doctrines, working in the thrilling partnership of carrying out the Great Commission. It's not the denomination, but the local church, the body of Christ, that is important. The other is just a means of doing the work.

"Joe, are you thinking of changing our giving pattern? Remember, our church and our mission programs are depending on people like us," said his wife.

"No, no, I guess not. I want to do what's right."

By Jeenie Gordon

lives was set up on a college campus. Half of the uninformed collegians were extended the services of the librarian. She talked to them, answered questions, and helped them find resources. The other half didn't get all that much help. But, they were physically touched by the librarian as they left, in a way that seemed accidental.

As each student left the library, a researcher asked if their time in the library had been positive. The students who had been touched reported a very positive experience. Those who had not been touched (even though they had been helped a great deal) had a more negative response.

"I Love You"

How difficult it is to say these three little words. How much we need to say them as well as hear them. Love needs to be spoken.

Most teens (and parents) have a very difficult time expressing love verbally. Often a note is the best way.

These are but a few of the ideas that can help you get start-

ed on having an enjoyable home life. Even though there's been intense pain, everyone needs to have fun times. Having fun keeps a family close. When we play together, we are able to be more honest. And when the tough times come, we are more capable of supporting each other. May yours be a "home, sweet home."

— Taken from the book *If My Parents are Getting Divorced, Why Am I the One Who Hurts?* by Jeenie Gordon (Zondervan, 1993). Gordon, a high school counselor and child of divorce, writes to help teenagers heal from the hurts of divorce.

JANUARY 23, 1994

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY

Missions Involvement Through Serving in Christ's Spirit



THE FRAGMENTS

Row or rock?

"Don't rock the boat" usually means we are satisfied with the "status quo" and would like for things to remain as they are. About this time last year, Roy L. Honeycutt, then president of Southern Seminary and a native of Grenada, suggested that there are times when the boat needs to be rocked.

Real discipleship requires courage as we face circumstances of this hour. Creative opportunities can be negated because a person is in love with the "status quo."

Gaines Dobbins, professor and also a native son, stressed that a natural force of gravity is as applicable to institutions as it is to nature. This downward pull has to be overcome by steadfast commitment to provide forward motion. Without "pro-motion," said Dobbins, the only direction we go is downhill.

An ancient proverb noted that "The person who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it." This faithfulness to the task ought to be the spur that enables churches, institutions, and mission programs to remain "pro-motion."

There are many distractions and temptations that are constantly crying out for us to abandon the oars and stop rowing. Being a passenger is never pleasant when shipmates are laboring at the oars. The larger mission goal must ever be before us. This is not the time to leave our battle stations and drop the oars. Behold the cloud of witnesses which urge us to remain

faithful at our post.

So, tell us please, when do we row and when do we decide to rock the boat? Indeed, there are times when rocking the boat takes more courage than rowing.

Columbus had to rock it or he would never have found the new continents.

The Boston Tea Party boys tilted the ship toward the revolution.

William Carey answered a call that opened the door to modern missions.

Rest assured that rocking the boat is often easier than rowing the boat. Irresponsible actions by those who simply want to quit the oars is hardly commendable. However, faced with a changing world, we may have to "forget those things which are behind us" and press forward in a new direction.

In the life of every institution the rocking process is needed. Sears, Roebuck would have never left the one small store had someone not rocked the boat. The timing is crucial. None of us is above constructive criticism and evaluation. Prayer, wise counsel, and sound judgment should lead us to row or rock at the appropriate time.

Facing 1994, I believe we would do well to remain at the oars and stay with the ship. Honeycutt suggested that we abandon neither our consciences nor our commitment to the larger mission which is before us. The 1994 sea is tempestuous; we have to decide — row or rock. — GH

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 117 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 48
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
Layout/News writer.....Shannon T. Simpson
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Robert Self, Brookhaven; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 20, 1994

Published Since 1877

Love, Bible, innovation advocated at conference

HOUSTON (BP) — Whatever non-traditional techniques they use, innovative churches must still be driven by love and based on the Bible to be effective, speakers told more than 1,000 people attending a conference on innovative church leadership.

Pastors, church planters, and church leaders from at least 32 states attended the conference, sponsored by the Home Mission Board and 10 pastors.

At least 25 people from Mississippi attended the conference, Jan. 3-5, in Houston.

The event promoted contemporary worship styles and creative methods to reach an increasingly secular society. Topics ranged from "Reaching Baby Boomers" and "Making Evangelism Work in the 1990s" to "Strategic Prayer" and "Avoiding Innovation Disasters."

"What drives us to innovate is love," said Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. "Lost people matter to God, therefore they matter to us."

Like many innovative churches, Willow Creek targets the unchurched, using drama and contemporary praise choruses instead of hymns to help present the message during its weekend services.

The church's burden for reaching lost people fuels its non-traditional approach, Hybels said. "I think the best churches that are being built these days are churches that church leaders are building for their (lost) friends."

But such churches must be based on sound biblical doctrine, said Tom Wolf, professor of missions at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

"Get accustomed to the culture and everything else but... when people come they must hear the Word of God," said Wolf, former pastor of The Church on Brady in east Los Angeles.

Wolf cautioned traditional church pastors against trying to

radically change their church when the congregation does not have the same vision as the pastor.

"It's like trying to fix your motor at 60 mph on the freeway," he said. "Some of us have tire marks down our backs."

Some pastors of innovative churches said the conference afforded them an opportunity to experience affirmation and acceptance they did not get from their regional association.

"My DOM (associational director of missions) would not even allow a mission start in the association because it would not have Baptist in its name," said one Texas pastor.

Some Southern Baptists have accepted African American churches and their different method of worship but not contemporary Anglo churches, said Charles Chaney, vice president of church extension for the Home Mission Board.

"It's important for me to say you can have diverse methods and still be full-blooded Southern Baptists," he said.

Jim Herrington, director of missions for Houston's Union Association, agreed. "Every church ought to be innovating," he said. "If they don't — traditional or contemporary — they're going to die."

Jerry Sheveland, pastor of College Avenue Church in San Diego, said he has learned to not kill sacred cows. "I just don't feed them."

He doesn't waste energy and conflict on programs or issues that are not useful to the church. Instead, he said he makes sure the congregation stays focused on members' shared vision.

"The issue of vision is that the church is full of competing visions of what a church is to become," Sheveland said during the "Leading the Innovative Church" conference.

The lack of a shared vision was one of 10 reasons Sheveland listed

for why churches plateau.

Vision, as well as external factors and leadership, are among the elements that influence church growth, said Sheveland, whose church is a member of the Baptist General Conference.

Other reasons churches plateau, said Sheveland, include:

— The congregation does not want to grow.

— The necessary resources for growth are not provided in advance. Such conditions are temporary if members want to grow, he said.

— The leadership style of the pastor or support staff no longer matches the growth stage of the church.

— The sociological make-up of the congregation no longer matches the make-up of the community.

— The congregation fails to restructure its ministry for the next phase of growth. "The larger you grow, the more you centralize decision making and decentralize the ministry."

— The congregation fails to increase the quality and quantity of its ministry events. "The best way to start new growth is to start new ministries with your best quality leaders."

— Internal crises or sheer self-centeredness may focus the church's energies inward.

"As pro-actively as you can, still hammer at the mission of the church over and over," Sheveland said. "It is not just making a nice comfortable place for second and third generation Christians."

SBC president asks for input in committee appointments

HOUSTON (BP)—Recommendations for four Southern Baptist Convention committees are being solicited by SBC President H. Edwin Young who makes the appointments.

Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church, appoints members of the SBC Committee on Committees, Credentials Committee, Resolutions Committee, and Tellers Committee.

In a letter to Baptist Press, Young asked for input — no later than Feb. 15 — from Southern Baptists "in order for wise decisions to be reached...."

Young has asked that the "recommendation form" be used by those making recommendations.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION COMMITTEE NOMINEE RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Committee: _____ Committee on Committees _____ Resolutions Committee
 _____ Credentials Committee _____ Tellers Committee

Previous service on any SBC Committee and/or Board? _____ Yes _____ No

If YES, what and when? _____

How long in state? _____ In church? _____

_____ Pastor _____ Church Staff _____ Denominational Position _____ Layperson

Occupation and/or Title _____

Church Affiliation _____

Church Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total Resident Church Membership 1992-1993 Association Year _____

The Cooperative Program 1992-1993 Association Year: _____

Amount \$ _____ Percentage of Church Budget _____ %

Baptisms in 1992-1993 Associational Year _____

Does Nominee Plan to Attend 1994 SBC? Yes _____ No _____

Name of Person Making Recommendation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Signature _____

Please fill out completely and return to: H. Edwin Young, Southern Baptist Convention, 6400 Woodway, Houston, Texas 77057

Baptist Women/Young Women retreat scheduled for Garaywa

The theme for the Baptist Women/Young Women Retreat at Camp Garaywa on Feb. 25-26 is "Making a Difference." The theme centers around the book by Betty Bock of Birmingham, *You Can Make a Difference*.



Calvert

Bock will be featured at the retreat sharing insights into helping change hurtful situations which keep us from experiencing wholeness of life.

Also featured will be Stuart Calvert of Ashland, author of *Uniquely Gifted*. Calvert will

help retreat attendees determine and use spiritual gifts.

Other program personalities will be Sharon Vincent, new Baptist Young Women specialist at the national Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala.

Cindy Coon of the state WMU staff will lead music; Patsy Rogers, Pearl Elementary School teacher, will be pianist; and Pam Smith of MC will lead relaxation exercises.

Conferences will be led by Martha Kate Phillips of Calhoun City; Helen Johnson, director of Crisis Pregnancy Center in Clarksdale; Vicki McCall, Baptist Nursing Fellowship president; Bill Hardy, director of Partnership Missions; and Denise Windom,

who will share about the Rio Grande ministry.



Bock

Check-in will begin at 4 p.m. in the main building at Camp Garaywa. The retreat will conclude Saturday after lunch.

Cost of the retreat is \$23 per person. Each person

will need to bring her own linens. To register, send name of church and contact person, address, phone, and fee to Camp Garaywa, P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060. Deadline for registration is Feb. 18.

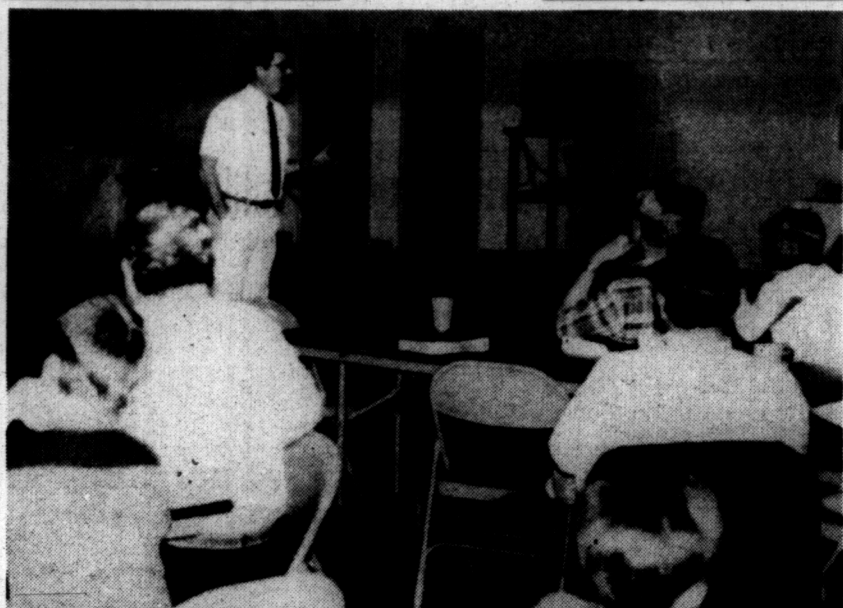
Disaster relief crews on standby

Crews from the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood's Disaster Relief Team are on temporary standby to assist in the aftermath of the earthquake which rocked the Los Angeles, Calif., area in the early hours of Jan. 17.

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director, said the unit itself would not be moved to Southern California. Several crews of Mississippi men may, however, go to California to serve as cooks in church kitchens.

At press time, some 32 people were confirmed dead and innumerable injured in Los Angeles and nearby San Fernando Valley.

The American Red Cross has put the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission on official alert for response to Southern California, and has activated two California Baptist feeding units and a clean-up unit.



Missionary challenges Lowndes RAs

Ken Bailey, standing, missionary to Bolivia, speaks to more than 95 Royal Ambassadors and their leaders at Mount Vernon Church, Lowndes Association. Kenny Raines from the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, challenged the boys to be Christ's missionaries, whatever vocation they may follow as adults. Roddy Reed, Dan Glen, and Michael Kelly from the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University led in skits and music and helped serve a pizza supper. Charles Patrick is Lowndes Association Brotherhood director; J.C. Mitchell is director of missions.

WMU executive board renames mags, adult women's organization

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — The Woman's Missionary Union executive board voted at its Jan. 8-13 meeting to rename its adult organization.

At the same time the executive board voted to discontinue *Royal Service*, which has served older women nearly 80 years, and *Contempo*, the magazine of the current Baptist Young Women's organization.

In its place, WMU will publish *Missions Mosaic* for members and *Missions Mosaic Executive* for leaders, beginning in October 1995.

The name change of the adult organization — from "Baptist Women" to "Women on Mission" — represented unfinished business left over after last year's action when the board adopted a new "Church WMU Base Design."

The base design, which defines WMU tasks and WMU organizations in the local church, streamlines WMU programs for more simplicity, flexibility, and relevance in today's world, according to WMU Executive Director Delanna W. O'Brien.

The new adult organization name — Women on Mission — fits that pattern, WMU leaders explained.

Effective October 1995, when all base design changes take place, Women on Mission will encompass both the former Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women age-level organizations.

WMU leaders stress missions education for Baptist young women will continue. Women of all ages may configure Women on Mission groups flexibly, retaining the "Baptist" designation if they wish and customizing groups on the basis of such factors as age, task, common interest or needs.

"The changes will allow women and girls to focus more on missions and less on organizational structure as we seek to be on mission for God in the world," O'Brien said.

"Methods will change but missions will continue to be the heart of all we do, allowing us to change missions education approaches with changing times," she said.

State BSU retreat set for February, Camp Garaywa

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union retreat is set for Feb. 4-5 at Clinton's Camp Garaywa.

"The meeting is designed to meet the interests of African American students in Mississippi," said Weaver McCracken, associate in the Department of Student Ministries, which organizes the program.

Featured speakers include John Corbitt and Gwen Williams. Corbitt is pastor of Springfield

Church, Greenville, S.C., and national director of the National Baptist Student Union Retreat at Greenville. Williams, a former Home Mission Board missionary, operates From the Heart ministries in New Orleans.

Seminar topics include: Avoiding Peer Pressure and Being Bold for God, What Does it Mean to be a Baptist?, and Should Christians be Involved in Violence?

Christian Action Commission lists more bills before state legislators

By Paul G. Jones II

The Christian Action Commission provides the following updated list of bills by topic to facilitate communication with legislators about pending legislation which addresses social, ethical, moral, or legal issues of concern to Mississippi Baptist churches.

The following bills were filed in the legislature since the previous listing in *The Baptist Record*, Jan. 6. During the session, legislators can be reached at the Capitol: Box 1018, Jackson, MS, 39215; telephone (601) 359-3770.

The Christian Action Commission can provide assistance, interpretation, or a complete list of current bills of concern to any cooperating Southern Baptist church and can be reached at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; telephone (601) 968-3800.

Alcohol and other drugs

HB 179 would allow a person to transport and possess for personal use beer, light wine, and alcoholic beverages in dry cities and counties.

HB 374 would make as a part of the fine for DUI an amount to be paid to a person who reports the violation of the implied consent law.

HB 670 would prohibit the taking of controlled substances during the last trimester of pregnancy.

SB 2242 would remove the requirement that the state of Mississippi would be the sole wholesale distributor of and seller of alcoholic beverages.

SB 2494 would prohibit the purchase of alcoholic beverages, beer, and light wine by minors.

Church and state

HB 222, 522, SB 2030, and 2074 would permit nonsectarian, nonproselytizing, student-initiated voluntary prayer on public school property or other property at school-related activities including student sporting events, graduation or commencement activities, and other student assemblies and events.

HCR 54 would ask the U.S. Congress to begin the process of amending the United States Constitution in such a manner to allow organized prayer in public schools.

Criminal justice

HB 123 would provide that no person who has been convicted of murder, manslaughter, sex crimes, robbery, or armed robbery shall be eligible for parole.

HB 597, 598, 601, and 604 would prohibit the possession of handguns by minors.

HB 268 would require the testing of persons convicted of rape or other sex offenses for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

HB 395 would establish additional penalties for crime committed with firearm not licensed or legally purchased.

HB 599, 600, and 602 would make it a felony to sell a weapon to a minor.

HB 608 and 613 would prohibit any person from carrying a firearm or explosive on to school property. SB 2173 would revise the prohibition of possession of weapons in or near schools.

HB 720 would require automatic suspension of a student who commits

an act of violence.

HB 2235 would require any person 12 years of age or older who uses a firearm in a crime to be tried in circuit court.

Education

HB 544 and 607 would require that any person working in a school who is charged with sexual involvement with a student shall have their name reported to the district attorney.

HB 611 and 748 would provide that assaults against all school employees shall result in enhanced penalties.

Family

HB 247 would establish a form of marriage known as covenant marriage.

HB 652 would allow for pre-nuptial agreements between perspective spouses.

HB 666 would mandate that once an adoption shall have been complete that it cannot be rescinded.

HB 676 would revise reporting requirements regarding neglected and abused children.

HB 681 would establish a child abuse investigation and prosecution unit under the attorney general's office.

SB 2403 would require the Depart-

ment of Human Services to notify the state Department of Education when a child has been placed in the custody of the department.

Gambling

HB 479 and SB 2253 would establish and allow the state to operate a state lottery to fund public education.

SB 2043 and 2226 would eliminate the restriction that legal gambling can only occur on board vessels adjacent to counties bordering the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River. These bills would allow legal gambling in any county in the state if not rejected by the citizens of the county within a short period after first notice.

SB 2123 would allow counties to tax charitable bingo operations.

State government

HCR 2 would allow the state to vote on the abolition of the office of Lieutenant Governor.

HCR 16 and 20 would reduce the legislature to one chamber.

HCR 31 and 32 would reduce the size of the House to 82 members and the Senate to 41 members.

Jones is executive director-treasurer, Christian Action Commission, MBC.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I was appalled to see the seven-year-old son of the new mayor of New York City acting the way he did at his father's swearing-in service until I began watching my own child when he is in public. What causes children to do this?

There are children who are natural "hams." We call them extroverts. The problem is how we as parents and adults define appropriateness. Appropriate actions begin when a child is small and by use of the word "no." This is not applied in a dictatorial sense but in a firm, loving attitude. This can also be accomplished by rewarding a child when we feel they behave appropriately.

I would find causing a distraction inappropriate, but others would say he is just expressing himself. Children who learn the value of appropriateness learn self-discipline and also learn how to respect the worth of themselves and others.

A child "hamming" is a good way to encourage creativity and ingenuity. Children who are extroverts need outlets for self-expression. Teaching them the appropriate places and times will ensure using their skills to make

the world a lively place.

My wife and I never talk any more. The children are all grown, and we both work. We come home, sit down in front of the television, and watch it until bedtime. We then go to sleep and start the whole process over again. This is getting boring.

This disease is common in marriages that have survived parenthood. It is called by some as burnout and by others as apathy. You have settled into a "rut." "Rut" has been defined as a groove with both ends cut out. One has to really do some hard maneuvering to stay out of the rut. Ruts are comfortable—you don't have to work too hard to stay in them.

As a couple in the empty nest, let me suggest you sit down and list your goals for the next five, 10, and 15 years. Brainstorm, think of all the possibilities. Find the one or two you agree on and make a plan to accomplish your goal. You might have to take the initial risk and make a suggestion to get a response. What I find happening is that once you take the risk, you are suddenly knocked out of the rut and things get more interesting.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Increasing number of churches taking security precautions

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptists' commitment to the "security of the believer" is well established as one of the linchpins of Baptist belief.

Unhappily, however, they are learning more and more about another kind of "security of the believer" — securing in this case the physical well-being of pastors, church members, church facilities, and the ability of the denomination and its institutions to operate.

The problem was highlighted recently in Houston when an investigation surfaced into the alleged improper use of concealed weapons by security guards at Second Church.

According to a *Houston Chronicle* story, the State Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies, the state licensing agency for security operations, is investigating a report that non-police guards in plainclothes improperly concealed weapons while working at the church.

The *Chronicle* story stated David Dixon, security director and minister of family life at the church, had given a deposition in a lawsuit in which he said he had carried a concealed weapon while guarding pastor Edwin Young

because "he's been threatened many times over the years."

Neil Martin, a lawyer and former FBI agent and spokesman for the church on the issue, told the *Texas Baptist Standard* the church maintains a security force, "some of whom are armed," at the church 24 hours daily. They serve on a volunteer basis, he said, and provide security for the church campus in general.

The volunteer force grows out of the church's ministry to the law enforcement community, Martin said.

"Second Baptist has a ministry for law enforcement that meets once a month. It is part of the outreach ministry of the church," Martin said. "There's a close relationship between the church and law enforcement. Often when the death of an officer occurs the services are conducted here if the officer doesn't have a church."

The monthly services are led by Dixon, who is a peace officer with The Village Police Department, Martin said.

Use of security guards and other measures such as video camera surveillance, controls on doors, and burglar alarms are commonplace in the 1990s. Locked doors,

opened only after a visitor's identity and purpose are determined, are becoming the rule rather than the exception at more churches.

The need for security was underscored in Dallas Dec. 28 when a man robbed the members of a church (not Baptist) at gunpoint at an evening service.

First Church, Dallas has a security department that maintains a 24-hour presence, said Tim Hedquist, church administrator.

"We have two high profile people (pastor O.S. Hawkins and senior pastor W.A. Criswell) for whom we have responsibility. We don't want to become an armed camp. What security we have is discreet; we don't put uniformed guards on the front pew. We want our people to see our security measures as means to help them."

Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Church of Tyler, Texas, said his church has armed and licensed officers who patrol the church buildings and parking lots during any evening service. The church has a contract for security of its property and the guards are Tyler police officers.

The Southern Baptist Convention paid more than \$6,600 for security personnel at the annual meeting in Houston last summer, "a little less" than has been the case in recent years when President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have spoken to the convention, said Herb Hollinger, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention news.

The Executive Committee itself provided armed guards for its special meeting in Nashville in July 1990 when Baptist Press news editor Dan Martin and vice president Alvin Shackleford were fired.

Druin is associate editor, *Texas BAPTIST STANDARD*.

Fellowship funds top \$11 million mark in '93

ATLANTA (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship took in \$11.2 million in 1993 — a 53% increase over the previous year's receipts.

The 53% increase for 1993 follows a 62% increase in 1992, when receipts totaled \$7.3 million. In 1991 the Fellowship took in \$4.5 million.

The Fellowship's Atlanta

office estimated that contributions came from approximately 1,200 churches in 1993, compared to 841 in 1992 and 391 in 1991.

Seventeen percent of the 1993 funds went to state Baptist conventions and Fellowship-endorsed agencies and organizations. And 25% went to the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Home, foreign board leaders address WMU counterparts

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptists may achieve their Bold Mission Thrust goals if they focus on what God is doing in the world, rather than on their own strategies, methods, and plans.

Jerry Rankin brought that challenge in his first report as new Foreign Mission Board president to the Woman's Missionary Union executive board.

He and his wife Bobbye, who spent 23 years on the mission field before his election last June as FMB president, cited dramatic breakthroughs which have opened formerly closed countries to missionaries and resulted in escalating evangelism and church growth.

"God is on mission" in the world the Rankins said in separate addresses to WMU leaders at Shocco Springs Assembly. That mission, they said, will be accom-

plished despite obstacles which seem to stand in the way.

"The question and responsibility you and I face are not whether or not God's purpose will be accomplished," Rankin said, "but whether or not we will be part of it."

"It may very well be that we get to the year 2000 and find that Bold Mission Thrust goals were an insult to God — because he is capable of so much more."

According to Larry Lewis, HMB president, projected income shortfalls at the Home Mission Board require renewed efforts by Woman's Missionary Union and all Southern Baptists.

Acknowledging the vital role WMU plays in promoting home missions support, Lewis encouraged WMU executive board members "to re-double your efforts in supporting the 1994 Season of

Home Missions as well as the Cooperative Program."

During a home missions update, Lewis challenged his audience to lead their churches to increase CP giving at least 1% a year to at least 10%. "I think 10% ought to be the floor and not the ceiling for this vital lifeline of missions support," Lewis said.

Lewis encouraged WMU leadership to support a joint request from himself and Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president, to set a combined 1995 special missions offering goal of \$150 million.

"I can think of no more fitting celebration of our 150th anniversary than to give \$50 million to home missions and \$100 million to foreign missions," Lewis said. Both the home and foreign mission agencies were started with founding of the Southern Baptist

Thursday, January 20, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



To the new church

Southern Baptist missionary Baker Hill walks with the village chief (wearing hat), church members, and interested villagers to the site of a new Baptist church in Burkina Faso. Hill burned his hand laying the first sun-baked brick before leading the dedicatory prayer. When Baker and Gail Hill came to the West African country 10 years ago, there were 20 Baptist church in their area. Now there are 63. (FMB photo by Craig Bird)

Beware fundraisers who can't fill promises

NASHVILLE (BP) — Carl Hoffman, executive vice president of the SBC Stewardship Commission, is cautioning churches to beware of fundraisers who make promises they cannot fulfill.

Hoffman said the recent recession propelled a number of individuals out of their established commercial fundraising firms and into fly-by-night one-to-five-person operations without proven track records or credentials. Many of these new companies operate out of little more than a suitcase and a phone booth, he said.

"Unfortunately for unsuspecting churches who hire these outfits, these companies are more like the proverbial traveling salesman — unreliable and difficult to pin down," Hoffman said.

He suggested these three guide-

lines for churches seeking to hire outside consultants to raise funds:

1) Clearly establish how long the firm has been in business and lean heavily toward those that have been in existence at least 10 years.

2) Get an accurate picture of how many other fundraising campaigns the organization has conducted and gravitate toward those that have led hundreds instead of just a few.

3) Inspect carefully the materials the company plans to use to be sure of their quality and originality.

He said the Southern Baptist Convention and some state conventions have established fundraising programs which provide reliable and consistent services to local churches.

MBMC will host February medical missions conference

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will sponsor a Medical Mission Conference from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 12 in the sub-way auditorium.

John Vess, chaplain at MBMC, will deliver a program entitled, "Call to Christian Service." Speakers who will discuss their mission work abroad include: Tree Clemons (Taiwan), Earl Hewitt (Ghana), Hannah Gay (Ethiopia),

nursing student Laura Williams (Africa), and several Mississippi College nursing students who have worked in Mexico.

Registration deadline for the conference is Feb. 3. There will be a \$5 charge to all students. Checks must be made out to Medical Missions and sent to Kathy Bearden, BSU, Baptist Medical Center. For more information, call (601) 968-5144.

Remember

- Your pastor needs to be there
- Your lay leaders need to be there

State Evangelism Conference

Jan. 24-25

First Church, Jackson

Hear Howard Aultman, Ron Dunn, Nelson Price, Sammy Tippet, Jerry Passmore, Ron Herrod, Greg Buchanan, and the Singing Churchmen.

Couple's home open to HIV children, others in need

By Alberta Lindsey

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Charles and Martha Carter are good at loving children and letting go.

They should be. The Carters have done it more than 280 times.

During the past 28 years, the couple has cared for 286 foster children in their Richmond-area home.

"Our mission is to take a child, get it ready to go on to its 'forever home' and we move on to the next one. But a little piece of your heart goes with every one of them," said Mrs. Carter as she sat beside her husband on the porch of the family's three-bedroom house.

The Carters, who are members of Richmond's Mt. Vernon Church, share their home with one of their own three children; three foster sons — ages 16 months, 4 months, and 1 month; an 11-year-old granddaughter; and a cat, dog, and fish.

In addition, Mrs. Carter looks after three children — 5 years old, 10 months, and 8 months — while their parents work.

"I would like to have a big house in the country and be able to take all of the children nobody wants. My heart is bigger than my house," she said.

Race is not an issue for the Carters, who are white. They take in children who need a home. Currently they have two black foster children and one who is biracial.

Although the average stay is six months, some children stay longer.

"We like to have the babies placed within six months," Mrs. Carter said. "It's easier on everybody. They have not grown so attached to us. They bond better when they are younger. When they leave us, they go with a set of grandparents...."

The Carters — he's 58 and she's 53 — are a special needs foster home for Children's Home Society of Virginia. They take care of children who may be premature, have such problems as Down's syndrome, or are HIV positive. They've also taken care of babies born addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Their 4-month-old bira-

cial foster son is small for his age; his mother was a drug addict.

The 16-month-old tested HIV positive at birth. A more recent test was negative. The child's mother has AIDS.

"He has a 1-in-400 chance of developing AIDS," said Mrs. Carter.

"When we first started, there were not a lot of special needs, but with the drugs, alcohol, and AIDS, it's becoming more and more."

Said Carter, "It's sad to say we are one of a few (foster families) who will take HIV positive children. We don't see it as a threat to our family or to us if we take the proper precautions. People are afraid of it because of a lack of knowledge."

The couple has many stories to tell about their foster children — some good; a few sad. And they have had to deal with looks and comments when they are out with black children.

On a happier note, Mrs. Carter recalled a foster daughter who joined the family at age 4.

"She was not liked by her father and had been terribly abused. He would hold her head under water. We had her for eight months and she got to be so secure and loving she could swim under water. We went to a picnic one day and met a couple interested in adoption."

"They talked to us and called the agency the next day. Three months later, she was theirs. She's doing fine," Mrs. Carter said.

Twenty years ago when the couple took in their first black baby, "People were nasty," Mrs. Carter said.

"They were very, very hostile and curt to us," her husband added.

"This is a ministry. These are children who need love. Those who know us know the situation. Those who don't know us, I really don't care," Mrs. Carter said.

"These children are part of our family. They go where we go. They go to church with us. They go to restaurants; on vacation."

"People say to us: 'You are so wonderful. You are so great.'"

"That's not true. The children are great," she said. "We are just there to meet the needs when it's necessary."

Reprinted with permission from the Richmond (Va.) TIMES-DISPATCH. Lindsey is staff writer with the newspaper.

22,000 babies abandoned, government study reports

WASHINGTON (BP) — Thousands of babies have been abandoned in hospitals across the country by parents unwilling or unable to take them home, the Associated Press reported in a recent national article.

"They are the tiniest victims of crack cocaine, poverty, homelessness, and AIDS, and one of the reasons the number of children in foster care is inching toward half a million," the AP noted.

Researchers counted 22,000 abandoned infants and "boarder babies" in the nation's hospitals in 1991, according to a draft report from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Boarder babies were defined as those under 12 months of age who remain in a hospital beyond the time when they are medically able to be discharged. Abandoned infants are those under 12 months old who are unlikely to leave the hospital in the custody of their biological parents.

Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission spokesman Louis Moore described the report as "one more sad commentary on the devaluation of human life in our culture today."

"In a day of rampant abortion, it is truly a miracle that these 22,000 abandoned children were not killed in the womb," Moore added.

"These statistics remind us that in addition to being pro-life, we also must be pro-adoption."

The report found 30% of the boarder babies nationwide will go home with their biological parents. The rest are placed in alternative homes because their parents are found unfit, unable, or unwilling to take their children.

Study at East Tennessee State University...

Religious background cited as factor in teen marriage

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (ABP) — True love may wait but often it doesn't wait long.

Researchers at East Tennessee State University said that children with religious upbringings that stress delaying sex until marriage are far more likely to wed in their teens than are their peers.

"When a value system develops which rigorously restricts premarital sexuality but promotes the sacredness of sex within the marital union, early marriage is a likely outcome," said researchers Judith Hammond, Bettie Cole, and Scott Beck in the Review of Religious Research.

Their study analyzed survey data from more than 8,000 respondents from various religious backgrounds — including Southern Baptists, whose acclaimed teen abstinence campaign, called "True Love Waits," has attracted national attention.

Earlier studies demonstrated that teenagers with conservative religious backgrounds, including Southern Baptists, are less likely to engage in premarital sex than their mainline Protestant counterparts. But, said the authors of the East Tennessee study, their research is the first to link religious heritage with teenage marriage.

The study contrasted marriage rates for teenagers from fundamentalist and institutional sect backgrounds with those of mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, non-Christian, and no religious heritage. The fundamentalist category was comprised primarily of Baptists, while institutional sects included Pentecostals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mormons. Non-Christians were primarily Jews and Unitarians.

Using data from the 1979 and 1984 National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth, the study found that percentages of respondents who married by age 19 were significantly higher among the more conservative religious groups. The survey, the authors point out, used a stratified sample which purposely over-represented African-

Americans and economically disadvantaged whites.

Baptist scholar David Gushee told Associated Baptist Press teen marriage may be gaining favor among some conservative Christians. If it becomes a trend, however, it may also bring more divorce, he warned.

Some conservative churches are harkening back to an age when parents encouraged early marriage and were actively involved in selection of their

children's mates, said Gushee, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"It can be seen as sort of a counter-culture response" to the problem of dealing with adolescent sexuality, he said.

Historically, adolescence — the gap between puberty and adulthood — did not exist until recently, Gushee said. Young people got married soon after reaching sexual maturity.

Marrying at age 18 instead of 25 is one way to shorten the number of years young people are prone to "slip into moral danger," he said. While that may work in some specific situations, he cautioned, "in most circumstances in our society today, teenage marriage is not a good idea."

Society's general lack of social and

family support to make marriages work is even harder on young marriage partners who lack individual maturity, Gushee said. Also, people marrying early typically lose educational and career opportunities that would allow them to compete with their peers.

"I think probably the culture has changed economically, socially, and every other way to such an extent that we will not see a massive return to early marriages that can work," Gushee said.

The ethicist said churches must help not only adolescents face the challenges of sexuality but young adults in their mid-20s.

The need for dealing with that challenge culturewide, Gushee said, was demonstrated by the overwhelmingly positive response to "True Love Waits," the Southern Baptist abstinence campaign.

Still, Gushee said, he was "intrigued" by the East Tennessee study and wouldn't be surprised if a trend toward early marriage develops.

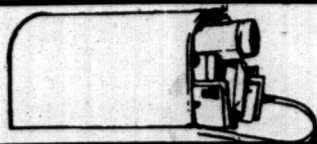
"Though there is a certain appeal to that desire, I am deeply concerned about divorce," he said. "I just can't believe a massive rush in 18-year-old marriages would not further increase the divorce rate."

Religious heritage, teenage marriage

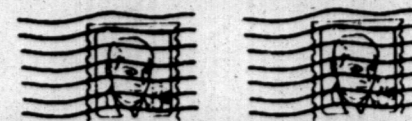
Percentage of respondents who marry by age 19:

	White Females	White Males	Black Females
Mainline Protestants	25.3%	9.6%	12.0%
Catholics	19.8	7.0	15.1
Fundamentalists	43.4	17.8	12.4
Non-Christian	11.3	1.4	—
No religion	30.6	17.1	10.4*
Total	28.7	11.7	12.8

* Percentages of non-Christian and no religion were combined for black females because of low numbers of respondents in each category. There were not enough married black men in the respondent group for a sample representation.



Letters to the editor



Faults caused decline

Editor:

Regarding the Dec. 30 article entitled "Decline in baptisms pondered by evangelism leaders," I would like to share a few thoughts of the possible reasons for the decline. The writer points out that "two years of decline follow four years of increased baptisms which peaked at 397,000 in 1991."

First, Southern Baptists are increasingly seen as developing "a theology of exclusion." While

other Protestant denominations have taken affirmative steps to meet not only the spiritual needs of the '90s, they have also moved ahead to meet many of the social needs of the '90s. However, due to the historical reluctance of Southern Baptists to implement change, we are being perceived more and more as the denomination of the past and not of the future.

Second, Southern Baptist churches have historically maintained their grass roots in the rural and small town churches. Due to

changing demographics, more and more individuals are leaving the farms and moving to the larger metropolitan areas. This is resulting in a substantial reduction in the membership of these smaller churches.

Third, the cold fact exists that with the many technological advances, many individuals have expressed their preference in seeking fellowship and entertainment through non-religious means. Even W.A. Criswell was quoted as stating that First Church, Dallas, no

longer even attempts to have revivals.

Fourth, the fundamentalist wing of the SBC has controlled the convention for over 10 years, creating dissension in our seminaries and colleges, home ministries, and even with our missionaries. Not surprisingly, many Christians of conscience are leaving the convention to join the ranks of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other denominations, or because of disillusionment, are dropping out of the church fellowship altogether. Perhaps the fundamentalists are now reaping the bitter fruit from the seeds they have planted over the years.

David C. Frazier
Pascagoula

praying for him anyway!

Jacky Campbell
Natchez

Alter salvation plan?

Editor:

It grieves me that we who call ourselves Christians think we can, or that we need to "alter" the plan of salvation so that when it is presented to young people in its "altered" form they can better understand it.

The plan of salvation, when "altered" is no longer the plan of salvation, for if we change a single thing about it we, without fail, must "add unto" or "take away" (Rev. 22:18-19).

Is not the plan of salvation as presented in the ages old "Roman Road" presentation enough? Do we not know that the plan of salvation, with no altering, is so simple that even little children can understand it?

In the "altered" version of the plan of salvation presented in the Dec. 30 Baptist Record, some things are sadly "taken away."

What about confession of sin? In Step 3 of the "altered" version, forgiveness is mentioned but people, we must ask for forgiveness after confessing our sin. Romans 10:10 should not be "taken away" when presenting the plan of salvation. That verse speaks of confession with the mouth.

Also, I'm afraid the word "repent" is misused all too often today. We can turn over new leaves or "change directions" till hell freezes over, but until we confess (repent for) our sins, there will be no forgiveness. Again, I refer you to Romans 10:10.

Finally, how can we leave out, or "take away" the mentioning of Jesus' precious blood that was spilled that we might have his forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22b states that "and without shedding of blood is no remission."

The "altered" plan of salvation speaks to Jesus' death and resurrection, but "takes away" the mentioning of his blood being shed. Read again Hebrews 9:22b.

New or "altered" is not always better. In this case it is an abomination.

I challenge our Sunday School Board to consider seriously this matter and put back into the plan of salvation these necessary points — confession, repentance (as in asking forgiveness for), and the blood.

God help us when we abandon the truth!

Debbie Aaron
Poplarville

Editor's Note: The "plan" of salvation is the Bible. Some people only use John's gospel; others, Romans or Hebrews. Today, the word "plan" is often used for the order or way some tract, booklet, or teacher presents the plan. Almost everyone would change his presentation to match the age group. Thus, the Baptist Sunday School Board presented a good plan to use with youths.

HEALTHCARE

FOR THE RECORD

Improve your odds against cancer Cancer Helplink® at MBMC

For every three people you know, one will be touched in some way by cancer. The statistics are frightening, but there is something you can do. A free information service, provided by The Cancer Center at Baptist, can help you and your loved ones learn more about cancer risks and prevention.

It's called Cancer HELPLINK®, and it's the most convenient single way to get medically sound, up-to-the-minute information on preventing, detecting and surviving cancer.

Cancer HELPLINK can be a wealth of information as well as a source of comfort. When you call, you speak with a registered nurse who has experience in cancer care. Whether you're seeking information about reducing your risks, identifying symptoms or finding a doctor, you get answers. If you or a family member has just been diagnosed with cancer, you can ask questions you may not have thought to ask your doctor.

Cancer HELPLINK is available to you between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. You may call as many times as you like; there is never any charge, and all calls are confidential.

How Can You Lower Your Risk?

The first step is to call Cancer HELPLINK and ask for our free Cancer Risk Profile. This helpful information tool will give you tips on what you can do to lower your risk factors that are in your control.

Cancer Risk Profile is also a good way to assess your individual cancer risk. All you have to do is fill out a simple questionnaire, mail it back to us, and you will receive a personal wellness report.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that half of all cancer deaths could be prevented by getting periodic cancer checkups and eliminating known risk factors.

Risk Factors You Control:

- Don't smoke.
- Choose a smoke-free environment.
- Limit your alcohol use.
- Reduce the amount of fat in your diet.
- Use sunscreen (SPF 15+).
- Maintain desirable body weight.
- Exercise regularly.

948-MBMC
1-800-738-MBMC



Cancer
HELPLINK®

Your source for accurate, up-to-date cancer information.

The Cancer Center at Baptist



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER
We're healthcaring for the whole family.

Just for the Record



RAs and GAs of First Church, Ocean Springs, recently participated in a two mile "Walk for World Hunger." They collected over 1,150 canned and boxed food items to be used to feed the hungry in the area.



Children of Union Chapel Church, Tutwiler, helped to raise \$1,050 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Union Chapel Church held its Harvest Supper in November. The children presented a program, "Parade of Flags." Pictured from left, back row, are leaders Niecy Johnson, Ginny Keenum as pilgrim, Charity Swindoll as Indian princess; and James Johnson, American boy. Front row, pictured are Chad Swindoll as Indian chief; Indian maids, Amanda Williams and Amanda Gamill; and Lee Johnson as today's boy.



Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, held a recognition service for its GAs on Dec. 12. Pictured, bottom row, from left, are Shea Howard, Emily Bonnabel, and Larissa Dixon; back row, Regina East and Tammy Dixon, leaders. Not pictured is Terri Richardson.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid, will have a dedication service for its new addition on Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served in fellowship hall. Raymond Jeffcoat is pastor.

Matt Friedeman, columnist and talk show host, will speak at **Van Winkle Church, Jackson**, at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 30, as a special event of Sanctity of Life Month being observed by the church. Call 948-6337 for more information.

Right To Life of Jackson will commemorate the 21st anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion with a candlelight memorial service at the state capitol, 7 p.m., on Jan. 22. The participants will gather to memorialize the more than 30 million babies slaughtered by abortion over the last 21 years. For more information, call 956-8636.

Mantee Church, Mantee, exceeded its set goal of \$12,600 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church thus far has received over \$12,700. Malcolm Pinion is pastor.

Grace Chapel, Brooklyn, will hold a special Baptist Men's Day service Jan. 23, beginning at 11 a.m. Speakers will be Sam Clemts and Cliff Evans. T.W. Kendall is pastor.

Kendall is pastor.

William Carey College on the Coast will present "Underlying Rhythms," the art work of Linda Murray, in the Sarah Gillespie gallery Jan. 20-Feb. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. An opening reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 20.

First Church of Sharon, Laurel, will host Ronnie Cottingham, music evangelist, in concert Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (601) 428-5319. Nelson Crozier is pastor.

The Baptist Student Union of the University of Southern Mississippi will have a campus revival Jan. 25-27 with the theme, "A Different Week." Services will be held at 6 p.m. in the Union Room A, B, and C. A noon luncheon will be held Thursday in the BSU center. The program will include Paul and Nicole Johnson and Kyle and Susan Matthews.

Oops!

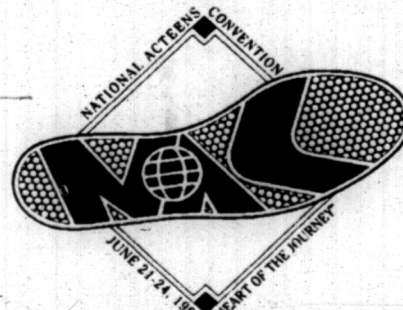
In the Jan. 6 issue of *The Baptist Record*, a cutline on page 3 incorrectly identified the Youth Evangelism Conference attendee below as Jennifer Munn of Pontotoc. She is **Stacy Osborne of Central Grove Church, Wren**.



Broadman & Holman video is best-seller

NASHVILLE (BP) — With pre-release sales of more than 75,000 copies, a new children's video produced by Broadman & Holman made the best-seller's list in a national magazine published by the Christian Booksellers Association.

The January edition of *Bookstore Journal* ranks *Spin: Truth, Tubas and George Washington* — the first episode in B&H's new Secret Adventures video series for children — as the fourth best-selling Christian video in the country. The listing reflects sales for the month of November.



Custom Church Interiors, Inc.

PEWS

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights
Painting • Baptistries • Steeples
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294
Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

Names in the News

Mississippi alumni of New Orleans Seminary recently elected **William P. Smith**, Tupelo, president; **Kenny Digby**, Fulton, president-elect; and **Kenneth Gordon**, Liberty, as secretary of the Alumni Association.

Hardy Church, Grenada, awarded scholarships in the amount of \$700 to **Michael Andrew Grenn** and **Scott Trent Worley**, both students at Mississippi College. The William R. Moss Memorial Ministerial Scholarship Fund was started in 1977 and since then Hardy Church has awarded scholarships to 20 students pursuing an education toward Christian service.

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, recently held a deacon ordination service for newly elected deacons **Tony Stringer** and **Venon Bullock**. Wayne Kimbrough is pastor.

Ronald C. Oliver, a native of Jackson and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Oliver of Amory, received the doctor of philosophy degree from Southern Seminary. His wife, Joyce, received the doctor of education degree. They were the first married couple in the history of Southern Seminary to receive doctoral degrees on the same day.

Home Mission Board administrator David T. Bunch was

elected the new executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention in a special convention meeting Jan. 11. The 60-year-old Bunch received an "overwhelming affirmative vote," according to one Colorado Baptist staffer who attended the session at Colorado Springs' Bellevue Church. An official count of messengers attending the meeting had not been compiled Jan. 12.

James M. Meaders of Hickory, will be listed in the 1994 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Meaders, a doctor of musical arts student at Southern Seminary, earned the bachelor of music and master of music degrees from Mississippi College.

The Bibletones will present a concert at Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, 1 p.m., on Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 30. There will be a male choir during the 11 a.m. worship service. A dinner on the grounds will follow the service.



Pauline Parker, a member of New Salem Church, Tishomingo County, received her pin for 12 years' perfect attendance in Sunday School. Presenting the pin is Billy Gann, Sunday School director. Clayton Littlejohn is pastor.

Mississippians receive degrees from SWBTS

Degrees were awarded to three students from Mississippi during Southwestern Seminary's fall commencement ceremonies Dec. 17. Receiving degrees were **Kerry B. Jackson**, Jackson, master of arts in communication; **Richard Almon Strebeck**, Pearl, master of arts in religious education; and **Jimmie Troutman**, Carthage, master of arts in marriage and family counseling.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

We remodel & paint

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR. Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1642 Hwy 84E, Laurel, MS 39440; 1-800-349-2882.

BIG TOP GOSPEL TENTS, all sizes. Open Air Ministries. (318) 939-2239.

CHRISTIAN CRUISES — To the Caribbean, Alaska, and Israel. **HENRY BLACKABY** — 5-Day Caribbean Cruise \$695. **ALASKA** — 7-Day \$1195. **ISRAEL** — 7-Day Mediterranean \$1495. **CHRISTIAN SINGLES** — 5-Day

\$545. "WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE" — \$525. Call Celebration Tours 1-800-998-6877.

USED CHOIR ROBES for sale. 30 Ivory Robes with 3 reversible stoles (6 colors) in various sizes. If interested, please contact: First Baptist Church, Belmont, MS (601) 454-3380. Monday-Friday, 8-12.

ADOPTING YOUR WHITE newborn/toddler would be a special blessing for us. Childless couple wanting to become parents. Call Caren or John collect: (518) 235-8566.

Staff Changes

First Church, Crystal Springs, has called **Scott Jones** as minister of education effective Jan. 2. A native of Jackson, he received his education at Hinds Community College, University of Southern Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary. He served as a summer missionary in St. Louis during the summer of 1989 and his previous place of service was Hillcrest Church, Franklinton, La.



Jones

East End Church, Columbus, has called **Gerald Haley** as pastor effective Jan. 2. He moved from Enterprise, Ala.

Thomas W. Quinn Jr. has been called as minister of music and youth by **South McComb Church, McComb**.

Barton Church, Lucedale, has called **Tracy Pigford** as minister of music and youth. A native of Wade, he received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi. His previous place of service was Four Mile Creek Church, Escatawpa.

Oral Church, Sumrall, has called **Monroe McManus** as minister of music effective Jan. 2. A native of Mt. Vernon, Ala., he received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg.

1,000 expected at church weekday education clinics

One thousand church weekday education directors and teachers are expected to attend one of three clinics sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). The conferees will earn five hours of continuing education credit for attendance at one of these clinics.

The first will be held Feb. 5 at Temple Church, Hattiesburg. The second clinic will be held Feb. 19 at First Church, Starkville. This location is a change from that first

announced. The third and largest of the clinics will be held at First Church, Jackson, March 5.

For more details and information, contact Barbara Brown, clinic coordinator, at (601) 956-6243. Official registration forms and fees should be turned in to the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Early registration is important to insure a choice of classes, according to Don Hicks, church weekday education consultant.

On May 17, 1991, a brilliant bolt of lightning struck the 90-member Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania, causing a fire that destroyed the building.

"Church Mutual worked speedily to help us settle the claim and get on the road to rebuilding. They are an exceptional company, and I would endorse them 100%."

—Robert M. Colvin Jr., Pastor

How we respond to claims is one reason Church Mutual is the largest church insurance company in America—protecting over 5,800 Southern Baptist churches alone. Call now for a free, on-site evaluation of your insurance needs from The Specialist.

Church Mutual.
1 800 542-3465



In a single flash, 90 people lost their house.

Thursday, January 20, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Baptist college enrollments show increase for 12th consecutive year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the 12th consecutive year, according to figures released to the Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1993 fall semester show 120,329 students attended Southern Baptist colleges and universities, a 4.1% increase over the 1992 total of 115,595.

The enrollment figures include both full-time and part-time students in college credit courses but do not include students enrolled in non-credit courses. Enrollment statistics were released to the commission by each school. This year's increase of 4,734 students is more than twice the 1.8% increase in enrollment from fall 1991 to fall 1992.

Following are the 1993 fall enrollment figures and the percentage of increase or decrease from fall 1992 to fall 1993 on some of the other Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities.

Alabama — Judson College, 320, down 2.1%; University of Mobile, 1,876, up 10.9%; Samford University, 4,443, up 2.3%.

Arkansas — Ouachita Baptist University, 1,371, up 5.8%; Williams Baptist College, 601, down 13%.

Florida — Florida Baptist Theological College, 497, down .2%; Palm Beach Atlantic College, 1,867, up 13.6%; Stetson University, 2,955, down 3.7%.

Georgia — Brewton-Parker College, 2,205, up 11.7%; Mercer University, 6,729, up 6%; Shorter College, 1,243, up 43.7%; Truett-McConnell College, 2,063, up 9.9%.

Louisiana — Louisiana College, 1,070, up 4.3%.

Mississippi — Blue Mountain College, 390, down 1.5%; Mississippi College, 3,781, up 4%; William Carey College, 2,195, up 8%.

Missouri — Hannibal-La-

Grange College, 898, up .7%; Missouri Baptist College, 1,812, up 26.8%; Southwest Baptist University, 3,136, up 1.6%; William Jewell College, 1,785, down 5.1%.

Oklahoma — Oklahoma Baptist University, 2,432, up 7.6%.

South Carolina — Anderson College, 1,131, down 3.5%; Charleston Southern University, 2,485, down .2%; Furman University, 3,179, down 2.8%; North Greenville College, 598, up 25.6%.

Tennessee — Belmont University, 2,871, up .2%; Carson-Newman College, 2,126, up 5.1%; Union University, 2,339, up .1%.

Texas — Baylor University, 12,194, up .1%; Dallas Baptist University, 2,803, up 3.4%; East Texas Baptist University, 1,253, up 4.1%; Hardin-Simmons University, 1,974, up 1.2%; Houston Baptist University, 2,203, up .1%; Howard Payne University, 1,455, up 12.5%; University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 2,117, up 11.2%; Wayland Baptist University, 3,048, up 13.8%.

Baptists Today faces turmoil, transition

ATLANTA (ABP) — Three staff members have resigned from the moderate newspaper **Baptists Today** in a conflict with editor Jack Harwell.

The newspaper's board of directors in December came one vote short of forcing Harwell to take a leave of absence to deal with stress produced by personal problems. Instead they agreed to pay for Harwell to get counseling.

The directors, meeting by conference call, also agreed to grant severance benefits to the three staffers — Amy Greene, Michael Usey, and Karen Cheponis — who submitted a formal list of complaints against Harwell. As part of the severance agreements, the staffers were prohibited from talking about their complaints.

Harwell said the dispute concerned "long-standing philosophical differences as to the direction of the paper," which he has served as editor since 1988.

"Last year was the best year financially we've ever had," he said. "We have more regular (financial) contributors than ever." Subscriptions are up from 4,500 when he became editor five years ago to 16,000, he reported.

Baptists Today, founded as **SBC Today** in 1983, became a voice for moderate and progressive Baptists who opposed the fundamental-conservative takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1980s. It was founded by Walker Knight, who retired last year.

SWBTS hosts sacred harp sing Jan. 29

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Seminary's School of Church Music will host its annual Sacred Harp Singing on Jan. 29 at 9:30 a.m. in the rotunda of Cowden Hall.

Sacred Harp singing, a tradition brought to America by the Pilgrims, first flourished in the rural South and then spread across the nation, according to William Reynolds, professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary.

MBMC offers variety of events

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) offers a variety of one-time and on-going community service events. Following is a selective list of those services with appropriate telephone numbers for more information.

Upcoming one-time events include: "So You're Thinking About Having a Baby?" Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m., Northminster Church, 973-3180; and "Partnerships for Better Digestive Health," Jan. 27, 6 p.m., Busey Auditorium at MBMC, 1-800-544-5481.

On-going support groups sponsored by MBMC include: cancer patients and families, second and fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m., 968-3090; grief, third Thursdays 6 p.m., 968-3090; breast cancer victims, third Mondays 6 p.m., 968-3090; asthma patients, third Mondays 6:30 p.m., 353-6262; and post-polio, fourth Saturdays 1-3 p.m., 968-1766.

Other regularly scheduled events include: "Early Pregnancy: The First Five Months," 968-1406; multiple sclerosis seminar/luncheon, 968-1766; and pediatric pre-op, every Monday 6 p.m., 968-1052.

Issues of the Heart

A Ministry to Women presents

Carol Ann Draper: *Sacrificial Families* —

Is Being In the Ministry Worth It to Our Families?

February 12, 1994 7:45 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Mobile University — Weaver Auditorium

Advanced Registration (by February 4): \$20.00; \$25.00 at the door. (Seminary wives pay only \$10.00)

For reservations, call 1(303)-271-9255

Or write to:

Issues of the Heart, P. O. Box 5245, Wheatridge, CO 80033



Carol Ann Draper

Gold City

in concert

Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

Hosted by

McDowell Road Baptist Church

1020 McDowell Rd., Jackson

Tickets: Adults, \$8 in advance, \$9 day of concert; Children 12 and under, \$4

Call (601) 372-1594 for more information

Uniform

The cost of discipleship



By Doug Bain
Luke 9, 10

Jesus certainly urges believers to follow him with a sense of urgency about the kingdom. But he also lays out the cost and the risks.

Would-be disciples (9:57-62). Some responses just do not ring true and do not result in significant discipleship. The first kind of response is "spontaneous but shallow." The cost is not carefully considered. The right words are said but there is no heart involved. "I will — wherever."

The second response is a "foot-dragging response." The cost is considered, but renegotiated: "Let me wait around long enough for the estate to be divided up so I will receive my fair share of the inheritance. Let the father get buried." "I will — but first...."

Third is the "Lott's wife response." The cost is counted, and accepted, but the lures of a former lifestyle obscure the goal: "Give me a little time to go back to the old places and ways, just for old times' sake." Once again, priorities are evident. "I will — but first...."

To the farmer, plowing is serious business, calling for full concentration. "Putting a hand to the plow" and then "looking back" — that is akin to plowing in the dark on a cloudy night with sun shades on. What serious farmer does that! This teaching occurs at the first of Luke's long "travel narrative," beginning at 9:51, which shows Jesus himself setting out singlemindedly for Jerusalem and never looking back. Some miss this resoluteness in attempting to follow him, with their responses being impulsive, insincere, or indecisive, as in the three would-be disciples.

The disciple is to follow in the steps of the Lord with singlemindedly resoluteness.

The approach and the need (10:1-2). Jesus' approach contains a balance between going "deep" with a select few and also going "wide" by circulating. Another balance is between careful planning and a sense of abandon. He is sending out an advance team in pairs as preparation for his later visit. But verse 4 will indicate that they were not to be calculating; no masterminding for success, no efficiency formulas, no backup systems — utter dependence on God for results. And the reason is dictated by what is at stake — the harvest. The crop is ripe, bounteous, at a crucial stage. The weather is holding for now but we are incredibly short-staffed. Is the harvest simply to perish on the vine?

Instructions (10:3-9). What are these disciples to expect? A good reception, with plenty of luncheon speech engagements? Plenty of amens? A fold-out feature in the Sunday society pages? Lead story on nightly news? Public recognition at the associational meeting? Actually, no. Expect to be systematically dismantled, with what you do for good being received with hostility. Expect to be torn apart, rent asunder, deeply wounded. This abuse will be at the hands of the religious establishment, for I (Jesus) send you where I intend to go — toward the citadel of Jerusalem.

What strange instructions, these! No extra expense accounts, no credit cards, no insurance, no extra suits, no careful calculating for all eventualities, and not even any public relations strategy (no visiting along the way). Pure business. It is almost like they are simply to go and not try to ensure their success, not manipulate results, and not force or even entice people to listen. If someone is hospitable to you, hang on to them like a leech. What can we make of this? The way Jesus would work may cancel out our kind of approach, basically because it is our approach and we have taken charge. He shatters our expectations! They are going out to proclaim the kingdom — and to demonstrate that it is dawning — but it is a radically different kingdom.

Facing rejection (10:10-12). While they can expect rejection, they are not to let it consume or bury them. Rather they are to see that they have in fact fulfilled their responsibility. Those rejecting have condemned themselves.

What a challenging picture of discipleship! The caring concern of Jesus for people motivates; the harvest is urgent; hard hearts set up resistance so that disciples must count beforehand the cost. When Christ bids a person come, he bids him come and die.

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book

Jesus begins public ministry



By Dan Howard
John 2

While driving in the mountains my wife and I observed a road sign which read, "Run away truck ramp ahead." Being from the "flat lands," we had no idea what this sign meant until we passed the sign and observed a truck stuck in one of the ramps. Signs always point beyond themselves to a greater truth.

Jesus begins in Chapter 2 with his public ministry by performing a miracle, or as John chooses to call them, signs. These signs reveal the power and authority of Jesus.

Jesus' miracle at the wedding in Cana (vv. 3-9a). Jesus and his disciples came to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Mary, Jesus' mother, was there performing some function for the wedding festivities which may have lasted up to seven days. When the wine ran out Mary came to Jesus with the problem.

Jesus' response in verse 4 was one of respect, but Jesus also reminds her that their relationship had changed from mother-son to sinner-Savior. This transition was important for Mary to make because of the events which were to occur over the next three years.

"His hour" refers to his crucifixion and resurrection. Mary may have been trying to push Jesus to reveal himself. This was not according to God's plan. We must not get ahead of God.

Whenever Jesus performed a miracle it was not because someone demanded it, but it was done for a purpose. Jesus did turn the water into wine at this wedding. His purpose in performing this miracle was to draw a contrast between the new way of life in Christ and the ritual cleansing and legalism of Judaism.

Cleansing of the temple (vv. 13-17). Many people have problems dealing with anger. When anger is expressed and processed appropriately it can be considered healthy. Paul said, "Be angry but sin not" (Eph. 4:26). Jesus shows us that we should get angry about sin in the world.

Jesus came to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When Jesus arrived in the temple area, the first section he came to was the Court of the Gentiles. It was probably in this area that the money changers and animal sellers were cheating worshippers. The Court of the Gentiles was the only area in which the Gentiles could enter. Because the businessmen were there the Gentiles had no place to worship.

Jesus' anger and action of running them out of this area was appropriate. It was his Father's house. There were a number of sinful circumstances taking place. This was a time when Jesus confronted the sinners and acted aggressively. Jesus' anger should not disturb us. Jesus' actions were always appropriate whether he was showing compassion or confronting sin.

A veiled reference to Jesus' death (vv. 18-22). The Sadducees, Jewish leaders who controlled the temple area, wanted to know by whose authority Jesus removed the money changers. Jesus' response was, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." This reply referred to his own body, but they perceived he was referring to the temple structure. This was a veiled reference to his death and resurrection. Jesus' disciples did not understand this until after his resurrection.

Our bodies are the temple of the Lord. May we treat them with reverence and respect. When we enter to worship let us consider if we are giving our all to God or whether we are being honest with God in our worship.

Jesus is all power and authority. May we allow his power and authority to flow through us.

Howard is pastor of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work

When I have doubts



By Billie Buckley
Luke 7

It chases and captures us. It tramples us in the mud and buries us in the dirt. None of us have escaped. Doubt is the enemy.

Doubt flings itself upon us for many reasons. Sometimes it's because of hardships and disappointments in our life. At other times, it's because what we expected did not come to pass. Finally, when our hearts become cold, we doubt. In our Scripture today, we will turn to Jesus for help in overcoming our doubts about him and our faith.

A question to Jesus (v. 20). John sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus about the questions he had. You see it was in his private world and not his public world that John's doubts lived. We need to understand the difference in these doubts today.

In our public world of doubt, one who is not a true believer seeks to spread his doubts to others. He just wants to sound clever and is not necessarily seeking answers.

In our private world of doubt, we are genuinely concerned about our doubts and finding answers. We take our doubts to his Word, and through prayer and Christian community we find answers.

A question for John (vv. 21-22). We must understand that John the Baptist raised his questions because Jesus' actions did not match his understanding of the Messiah's role as the judge against evil. Jesus helped him with this understanding by being steadfast in his ministry of healing and teaching. Jesus' life was not "show business," nor did he ever cancel out because of others' doubts and questions raised against him. What if our life called for a report on us. Would others read "cancelled" or "ongoing?"

Would it be "cancelled" because of the lack of peace in our hearts? The pressures of the world and our wrong priorities pull us away from stability because we don't want to pay the price to give up any of them. It is a known fact that when you say "yes" to something, you have to say "no" to something else.

"Ongoing" means we are moving up! Jesus' life and ministry were always characteristic of these words. This was true due to his close personal relationship with the Father.

A question about John (vv. 42-46). Jesus answered some questions about John being genuine and real. Some who had previously trusted him now had doubts. This can happen to dedicated servants of God today. Boldly, we once expressed our faith in Christ. Now we have dry spells of doubt. What causes these dry spells of doubt?

Lack of rest (not lack of sleep), lack of time for a place set aside to take us out of the busyness of life can cause doubt. This place set aside allows us to see ourselves and God in proper perspective.

A lack of realism means we try to deceive others about our spiritual experiences. This makes us the worst kind of traitor — a traitor to ourselves. We do not acknowledge our shortcomings or doubts as being real. Until we allow the Spirit of God to show us these, we lack realism.

A commendation about John (vv. 27-28). Jesus refused to condemn John about his doubts, instead he affirmed him. Jesus doesn't condemn believers today when they have doubts; instead, he recognizes their strengths. Even today some are never tired of saying that religion and its leaders have had their day. We need to affirm the fact that there is no doubt that the Christian faith is alive and well in many hearts.

We can affirm our faith by offering a hand of understanding which moves others from the darkness of doubts to the light of certainty; from indecision to action; from fear to trust; and from pain to pleasure. Many just need a helping hand.

We can nurture others' strengths. Some strengths are fragile; yet, all should be growing. God has trusted us to nurture those who have fragile strength and honest doubts. The Great Nurturer has respect for others' efforts and strengths, even their doubts.

The good news is we can escape our doubts about Christ if we turn them over to him. He then allows us to overcome them by his power.

Buckley is a member of Petal Harvey Church, Petal.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND
CHILDREN, INC.

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

NOV. 1, 1993-
NOV. 30, 1993

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Ann Beck Collier
Mrs. W. E. Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Collier
Mrs. John B. Easter
Mrs. Gene Ganier
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mrs. Debbie Vogt
Mr. & Mrs. Don O. Baker
Mrs. Vera Collins
Mr. & Mrs. William Rex Patterson
Mr. Luke Conerty
Mrs. Peggy Thornhill
Mrs. Pam F. White
Mrs. Ina Conn
Chapel Bible Class/FBC, Jackson
Miss Grace Copeland
Mr. and Mrs. Willie Badon
Francis Cox
Mary Martha SS, FBC
Crystal Springs
Miss E. Earline Cox
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Riggins
Ms. Nancy Crist
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hodeman
Brenda Croft
Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Lightsey
Darnell Crowson
Ms. Billie McCully
Gaynell Curtis
Mrs. Lennie S. Freeman
John S. Dale
Mrs. L. E. Green
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Speed
Tommy Darnell
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Brown
Mrs. Mittie J. Davenport
Mr. & Mrs. J. Sam Lackey & Glynn
Mr. & Mrs. N. C. Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Walley Vance
Gene Davis
Stanton Baptist Church
Ginny Davis
Family of Betty Abritton
Family of Dottie Lee
Family of Glenda Jones
Family of Katie Bergeron
L. J. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wilson
Mrs. Emma Lou Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Palmer
Irene Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Chandler Worley
Mr. & Mrs. Gil Worley
Mrs. Dearman
Mrs. Joetta Tillman
Myrtle Derrick
JPFC Federal Credit Union
Mrs. Padra Dodd
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Davis
Edna Donaldson
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wilson
Virginia Dugon
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Kinton
Juan Eaves
Alford, Hartman, Knight, Spencer
& Thomas P. A.
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Hobby
Brownie Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Britt
Mrs. Mary Edwards
Mr. Mike Davis
Todd Elliot
Mrs. Jewel Segars
Mr. W. R. Elliott
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Dendy
Miss Sara Gene Eubanks
Sallis Ladies Adult SS, Sallis BC
Mr. Earl M. Evans
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Friendship SS, Hollandale BC
Mr. & Mrs. John Coward
Everett
First Baptist Church, Bude
Mr. Charles A. Everett
Mrs. Ruby S. Boggan
Mrs. Lorena Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Vance Smith
Mrs. Ruby Everett
Young Adult SS, Calvary BC,
Greenwood
Mrs. Willie Mitchell Everett

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Whitfield
John Wesley Fisher
Emory Baptist Church
Mrs. Rachel Flowers
Mrs. Gladys Frederick
Mrs. Ruby G. Hollingsworth
Rachel Flowers
Mrs. Howard Poe
Mrs. Thelma Forrester
Mrs. Ota N. Assaf
Billy Fortenberry
Ms. Vercia M. Mauldin
Mr. & Mrs. Dorpha Wilson
Mr. Raymond Fowlkes
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis
Mrs. Luna Franks
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Davenport
Marvin French
Siloam Baptist Church
Mr. Dave Gayler
Candlelighters SS, Immanuel BC,
Vicksburg
Mrs. Frances Hicks
Mrs. Hazel Gosselin
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Holloman
Mrs. Mildred Germany
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Breithaupt
& Family
Mrs. Rubye Mae Giles
Daleville Baptist Church
Faith SS, FBC Marion
Mrs. Ophelia Gerton
Mr. & Mrs. James Sandling
Martha Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
Mr. Robert Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Doolittle
Mr. W. E. Gray
Mrs. Mildred G. Marchetti
Mrs. Martha Gray
The Manning Family
William E. Green
Mrs. William E. Green
Mrs. Arda Greene
Mrs. Mildred Colotta
Judy Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Carullo
Dixie Guy
Mr. & Mrs. Theron Poole
Mr. Roy Haddox
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall
Mr. Walter W. Hamby
Mrs. Nell P. Blakely & Family
Mrs. Myrtle Hammett
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Watson
Mrs. Gussie Hancock
Ms. Gladys Bailey
Ms. Marie Bilbo
Ms. Earline Harden
Lucille McWilliams Haraway
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Arnold
John Elmer Harden
Mr. & Mrs. Skelton Harden
Mrs. Minnie Harris
Mrs. Dimpie W. Cox
Sarah Harris
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mr. Robert Helble
Mrs. Margaret Fredericks
Mrs. Marie Hemmes
Ms. Bobby Edmonson
Mr. Samuel C. Henderson Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kenneth
& Scott
Curtis Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller Jr.
Mrs. Dorothy W. Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Stampley
Mr. Thomas Hitt
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wilson
Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Hollifield & Infant
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Sadie S. Hollowell
Ms. Martha Putnam
Mr. W. D. Holman
Phillipston Baptist Church, Sidon
Mrs. Emma Holman
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Kendall
Mrs. Mildred Hones
Mr. & Mrs. Pat H. Shivers
David Horn
Rev. & Mrs. D. C. Hartley
John (Brother) Horn
Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Hankins
Mrs. Ivory Horton
Rev. & Mrs. William F. Evans
Mrs. Wilma Horton
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Holloman
Mr. Ernest Hoyer
Barton Baptist Church

Mr. William Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Jaggars
John Hudson
Mrs. Gladys Frederick
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Hudson
Mrs. Mildred Pierce
Douglas Huffman
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Gilbert
Mr. Preston Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Jerrol C. Hullum
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Tillotson
Mrs. Annie L. Hutchins
Mr. & Mrs. Talmadge McNair
& Family
Mrs. Rosa W. Pittman
Mrs. Annie Laura Hutchins
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Riggins
Mr. L. L. Hutchinson
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Lynk
Lawrence Ivey
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wilson
Dr. Robert Ivy
Fannie Peoples
H. Brown Jenkins
Ms. Mary Abels & Family
Mrs. Viola Sumrall Joel
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Malatesta
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Garrett
Miss Selma Johnson
Mrs. Lennie S. Freeman
Mrs. Sue Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Don O. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Brown Brown
Mr. Walter Jack Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Brown
Mrs. Pleeta Jolly
Hobson Ridge Baptist Church
Mrs. Bert H. (Helen) Jones
Judge and Mrs. Joe N. Pigott
Mrs. Helen R. Jones
Dr. & Mrs. E. L. Posey Jr.
Mrs. Dot Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pettey
Ruth Kastelich
Miss Sue Power
Mrs. Gwendolyn Kennedy
Ms. Nell H. Bourland
Michael Kester
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Thomas
Mr. Tom H. Kimbrell
Mrs. Raymond Barr
Ms. Mary Helen Henry
Tommy and Carol Kimbrell
Mrs. Raymond Barr
Mr. John Kupka Lake
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Mrs. Mattie Lou Landreth
Miss Mildred L. Perkins
Mrs. Orsella (Sister) Lanaster
First Baptist Church
Edith Blackwell Lawson
Mrs. Edie Williams
Mr. Herman Lee
Mr. Laney A. Berry
Mr. William Garvin Lee
Freepot-McMoran Inc.
Mrs. Louise Leonard
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Jaggars
Mr. Charles Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Kitts
Mr. & Mrs. John O. Watkins
Jeff Lewis
The Veon Family
Mrs. Annie Vernon Liddell
Mrs. Robbie Duke
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Gill
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Riggins
Mr. & Mrs. Talmadge McNair
& Family
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Welsh Jr.
C. R. Dixon Family
George A. Morgan Family
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Hubbard
Mrs. Creula C. Liddell
Mrs. Opal Osborn
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Smith III
Mr. W. E. Kinchen
Mr. Bertram Lindley
Mrs. Joe E. Vamer
Mrs. Betsey East Lindsey
Mr. & Mrs. Luther R. Adams
Mr. John Jay Lipscomb
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Thomas
Melissa J. Loban
Morgan Chapel Baptist Church
Percy Lofton
Mrs. Dorothy K. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Malatesta

Odle and Naomi Logan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullede
John Moore Lovorn
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Palmer
Mr. J. T. Lowther
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Jim Mack
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Ben Magee
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Arendale
Mr. Leo Martin
Mrs. Marion C. Spell
Velma Massey
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd
William Carson Massey
Mr. E. W. Penmeter
Dr. Hennings Mayfield
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Ray Jr.
Rev. & Mrs. S. E. McAdory
Mrs. J. V. Smith
Jim McCalop
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. McDade
Mrs. Bertha McCaskill
Mr. Major McDaniel Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
R. W. McDaniel
Ms. Beanie L. McDaniel
Mr. Wayne McElroy
Mrs. Dor Shaw & Family
Mrs. Grace McElveen
Miss Christine Turney
Mrs. Frances Turney
Mrs. Eula Lee McInnis
Robert A. Beall Family
Spring Hill BC, Hazlehurst
Mr. Robert McKenzie
Dr. & Mrs. T. W. Rankin
Vernon McNeely
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders & Family
Beatrice McRae
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wilson
Mrs. Pearl McWhorter
Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Owens
Mr. M. L. McWilliams
Mrs. M. L. McWilliams
Mrs. Rochelle Meaders
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Joel Rupert Merriman
Reedy Acres Staff
Mrs. Dona Brown
Mike Crocker & Family
Ray Frame & Family
Mrs. Eula Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Peery & Jana
William Michael Middleton
Mrs. Eloise Avery
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gary Sr. & Family
Mr. Howard Miller
Fidelis SS, FBC, Crystal Springs
Mr. Jim Milner
Tinsley Baptist Church
Cristy Griffin Monroe
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Clay III
J. C. Moore
Mrs. Mamie R. Ross
Mayds Miller and Sara Moore
Mrs. Howard Poe

Randy Moore
Mrs. M. L. McWilliams
Corine Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Parker Naron
Woodard Morgan
Ms. Doris Norman
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Morris
Mr. & Mrs. J. U. Hendrix
Edna Earle Moser
Mr. A. L. Moser
Ralph Moser
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullede
Ben Mullen
Mr. & Mrs. Murad Nasif

Mr. L. L. Mullins
Miss Connie Jackson
James L. Nail Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Powers
Mr. Henry Nations
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Little
Mrs. Anna A. Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Denton
Mrs. Trudy Wilson Nelms
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Jemison Jr.
Mr. LaGaston Newsome
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Y. Duell
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Raper
Blevin Nichols

Mr. & Mrs. James Sandling
Mrs. Bertha Mae Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Lightsey
Paul Douglas Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Everett Wilson
Mr. Ralph Norwood
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Patterson
Mrs. Virginia Oakley
Mr. Michael Rubenstein
Mr. Ted Rubenstein
Marion Ousley
Mrs. Louise M. Gwin

(to be continued)



Christmas is but a memory to each of us by now. Thanks to so many of you, Christmas '93 holds HAPPY memories for young people at The BCV. Once again they have seen Christ's love demonstrated through your generosity.

Help!

There is an immediate need for mature, Christian couples and ladies, age 30 to 60 years, to serve as child care workers on our residential care staff. Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health, prepared to accept 24-hour per day residential assignment with children.

- * No previous experience required — we will train
- * Adequate cash salary; room and board furnished
- * Excellent insurance and retirement program
- * Interesting opportunity for Vocational Christian service



For further details contact:
Peggy Taylor
922-2242

The Baptist Children's Village
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027
EOE

capsules

EVEN A SPOON CAN BE A MINISTRY: SALINA, Kan. (BP)

In a trip to Bangladesh, Woman's Missionary Union staffer Barbara Joiner was asked to lead a conference on spiritual gifts. On the last day a Bengali woman told about a Hindu man in her village who was bedridden by a stroke and could not feed himself. People in the village had given up trying to feed him because it was such a messy ordeal eating the Bengali way — using one's fingers. "I have a spoon," the woman said. "Every day I take my spoon and go over and feed him his curry. I make sure every drop goes in his mouth and not on his face." Telling the story to Kansas-Nebraska WMU members, Joiner exhorted them, "Use that spoon. Serve in Christ's name."

UKRAINE BAPTIST LEADER DIES FROM HEART FAILURE: KIEV, Ukraine (BP)

Jacob Dukhonchenko, president of the Union of the Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Ukraine, died Dec. 20 from heart failure in a hospital in Kiev. He was in his late 60s. Dukhonchenko had headed the Baptist Union of Ukraine since its founding in 1992, after Ukraine gained independence from the collapsing Soviet Union. Before that he led Ukrainian Baptists during the repressive years of communist rule, and he paid the price. "The Duke" will always be remembered as a... defender of the truth, man of God, faithful pastor, leader of the church in the Ukraine, who endured great trials, a decade of imprisonment, all the while standing firm in our Christ," wrote Ukrainian Baptist leaders in a letter informing the Baptist World Alliance of his death.

MILLER PRESENTED AS DIRECTOR OF NEW DIVISION AT BSSB: NASHVILLE (BP)

Michael D. Miller, director of the church growth division for the California Southern Baptist Convention since 1991, has been presented in a letter to Baptist Sunday School Board trustees as the candidate to direct a new BSSB division. Gene Mims, vice president of the board's church growth group, said Miller is anticipated to become director of the division, tentatively named the church leadership, ministry, and worship division, on Feb. 1, pending responses from trustees to a letter mailed in mid-December. While trustee approval is not required for filling a division-level position, Mims said input from trustees is "critical" because the leadership role is "a strategic position relating to church staffs." He said the usual 10-day period provided for trustees to comment on such a letter was extended to Jan. 15 because of the holidays. The new division will include the Church Leadership and Church Music Ministries Departments, Genevox Music Group, and ethnic and black church growth component.

LINDA JOHNSON TO LEAD BAPTIST OLYMPICS MINISTRY: ATLANTA (BP)

Atlanta International Ministries (AIM '96) has elected a director to lead the Baptist ministry efforts related to the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996. Linda Faye Johnson, director of resort ministries for the Greater Orlando (Florida) Association, will assume duties as director of AIM '96 in mid-February. Johnson was elected at the Jan. 4 meeting of the AIM '96 steering committee upon the unanimous recommendation of a special search committee chaired by Clarence Drummond. A career missionary under appointment with the Home Mission Board, Johnson has served since 1991 as director of resort ministries in Orlando, but she first went to central Florida in 1981 as a US-2 HMB missionary. She has served in various capacities since that time on both the associational and state level in special ministries, especially related to resort ministries. The AIM '96 office is temporarily located in space provided by the HMB in the same building with the Atlanta Baptist Association. Correspondence can be addressed to P.O. Box 78005, Atlanta, GA 30357; the office telephone number is (404) 872-0086.

CHAPLAIN'S CASE STILL PENDING: ATLANTA (BP)

An honorable discharge has been recommended for a Southern Baptist Air Force chaplain, but final action on the case is still pending. The New York Times reported Dec. 21 that Lt. Col. Garland Robertson was granted an honorable discharge and was planning to appeal the decision. Robertson said an honorable discharge was recommended, but the issue must move through military channels until the secretary of the Air Force makes a final decision. Robertson, a Mississippi native, is stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. In 1991, Robertson wrote a letter to the editor of the Abilene Reporter-News before war was declared in the Persian Gulf. The letter questioned the wisdom of using military force to evict Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait. Chaplains are free to express their views but military regulations require authors of such letters to not use their military identification, said Lew Burnett, Home Mission Board director of military chaplaincy. Robertson was reprimanded for identifying himself with his military unit in the letter. The reprimand was reported in the local newspaper. Robertson has 26 years of active and reserve military duty, including service as a pilot in Vietnam, for which he received the distinguished flying cross of heroism in combat.

Yale prof Carter challenges elite "Culture of Disbelief"

By David P. Gushee

Of the tens of thousands of books published every year, few receive the personal endorsement of the president of the United States. Yet President Clinton spent much of the fall raving about one such book: *The Culture of Disbelief* by Yale Law School professor Stephen Carter.

The president's comments attracted considerable attention in the media — and considerable celebration among committed Christians. Some Christians even saw the president's positive response to the book as a direct answer to prayer. What could possibly be so significant about *The Culture of Disbelief*, the heavily footnoted scholarly book that turned into a national event?

Carter argues that this nation's political, legal, and cultural leaders

fail to take religious devotion seriously, except perhaps as a threat to the republic. These leaders act as if there is something wrong with serious religious commitment. They profess outrage if religious persons bring their deepest commitments into public life — as though non-religious people leave their deepest commitments at home when they enter public life.

This anti-religious bias can be seen in politics, education, culture, and the law. Carter is deeply disturbed by all of this; he sees the elite's disdain for religion as both out of step with U.S. history and culture, and a major threat to the future of democracy in the United States.

Carter begins his book by describing "some of the many ways in which our culture has come to

belittle religious devotion, to humiliate believers, and... to discourage religion as a serious activity" (p. 16). The picture he paints is true to the experience of many Christians.

He then considers the constitutional status of religion today, arguing that the separation of church and state must be defended, but that this must occur without treating religious belief as an irrational annoyance. He thinks that an anti-religious bias has been increasingly apparent in legal decisions regarding religion, and again he is on target.

Carter considers several of the life-and-death issues of our time — abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment — asking how religious convictions should figure in debates over these issues. He rightly rejects the idea that the convictions of religious Americans on these questions should be ignored just because their views are religiously rooted.

Carter addresses organized prayer in the public schools as well as other education-related issues such as the evolution/scientific creationism debates, the teaching of values, sex education, and funding for private religious schools. He argues that the modern, morally relativist, and secular spirit of public education today is driving off many religious families who feel that in good conscience they simply cannot send their children to the public schools because of this spirit.

Religious readers, especially evangelical Christians, have responded to the book with jubilation, not because Carter agrees with them on every point but because he is a member of the cultural elite who has listened to them. Because of his membership in that elite, his peers in the liberal political and cultural world have also listened to him, when they would not listen to many other religious persons who have voiced similar concerns.

Gushee is assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Just for seniors —

It's not a sin to grow old!

Following is the fifth in a series of articles on senior adults written by Robert J. Hastings, retired editor of the Illinois Baptist, news-journal of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

About the time I passed 60, I noticed a growing number of people, such as barbers, store clerks, waiters, even ministers, asking me, "How are you, young man?" The first time this happened, I looked around to see whom they meant!

Persons who refer to senior adults as "young man" or "young lady" mean well. They intend to make us feel good by calling us something we aren't.

But the way to make people feel good about themselves is to accept them at face value. If someone puts a label on us which isn't true, it says that person can't accept us as we are.

Is it a sin to grow older? Must society play games with us, pretending we're young when we know we aren't? It's just as logical to call someone by a different name because his real name is odd or hard to pronounce.

Public speakers often use illustrations about "little old ladies." You've heard them: "Now this little old lady drove right through the plate glass window." Or, "This little old lady whacked him over the

head with her umbrella." Or, "That old codger came barreling down the aisle and bumped me with his grocery cart."

Why is it always a "little" old lady? Or that old "codger?" Are there no normal-size older ladies? The whole concept is, of course, ridiculous. It's also patronizing and stereotyping.

We hear other putdowns, such as, "I didn't realize you're that old. You don't look a day over 40." Or, "He's in his second childhood." Or, "Say, but you're looking good" (as if you look good even though you aren't!).

Then there are non-verbal putdowns. You stop rather than going through a yellow light, and in the rear view mirror you see an exasperated driver, slowly shaking his head at you in disbelief. Disbelief? Yes, disbelief that older drivers would actually delay traffic by obeying signals!

Remember as a child, when someone pointed a finger at you, rubbed it with another, and said, "Shame on you?" If we make facial expressions or shake our heads over what we perceive as someone being slow or clumsy, it's another way of saying, "Shame on you!"

Which is, of course, an old-fashioned putdown dressed up for the 1990s.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1994

DA ZA WKAVAHIVA SAVLEHQN, UT ZIQV
HUWKAV UNTI ET SAVLEHQN.

NQMA TEB:WKEVWZ-TEB.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Third John Eleven.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

January 20, 1994